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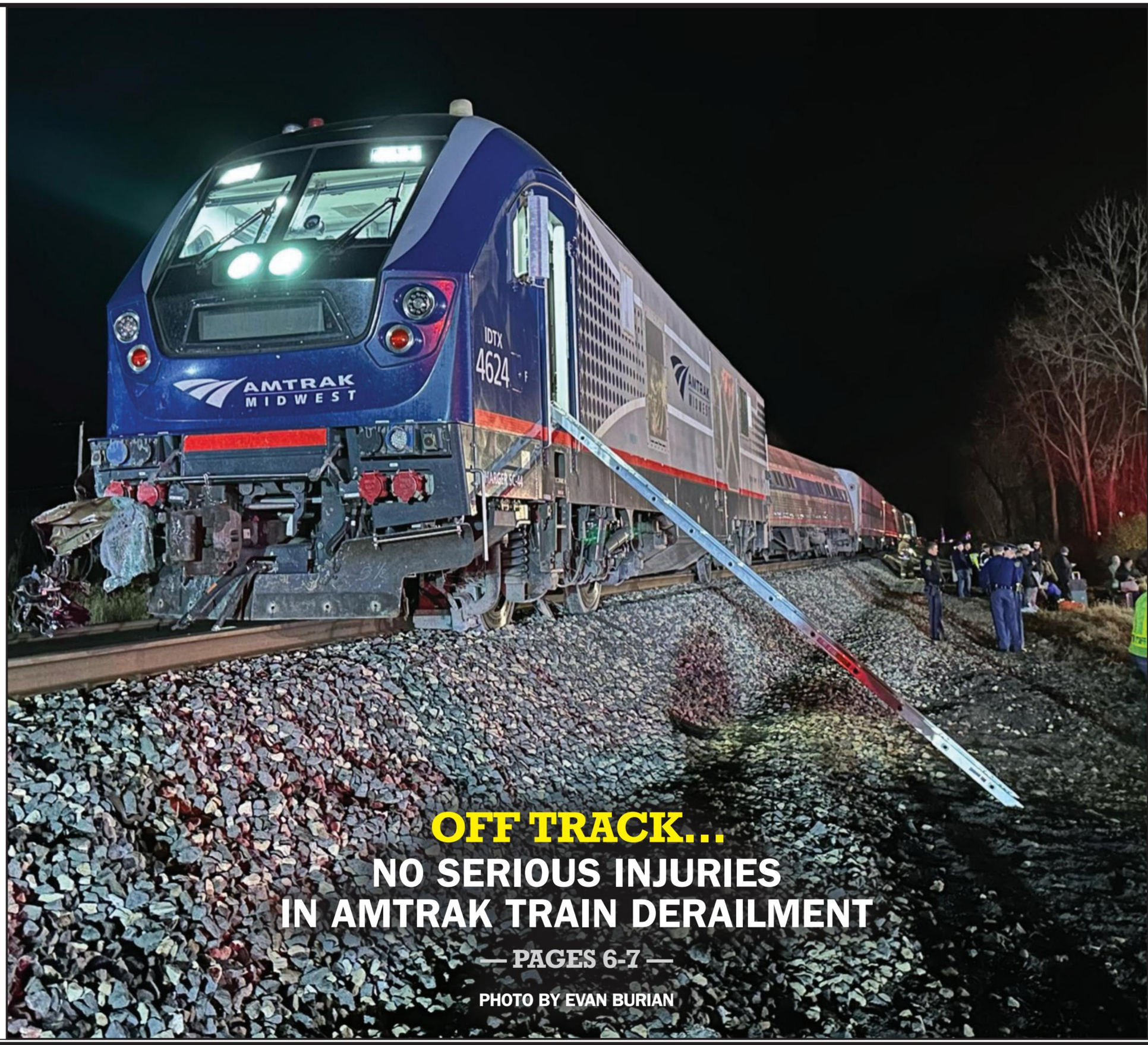

OFF TRACK...
NO SERIOUS INJURIES IN AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILMENT

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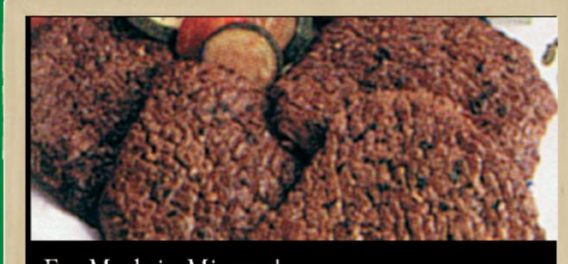

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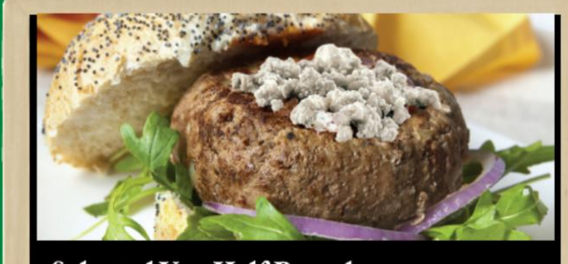

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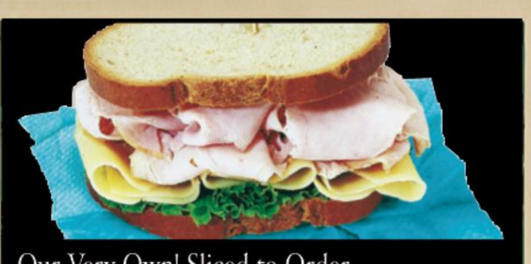

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Feedback elicited on new and improved Lakeside

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Guests were given a preview of Lakeside's face lift, which is on tap for next year, at a meeting at Chikaming Township Center Thursday, Nov. 16.

Kevin Stack, engineering supervisor at the Berrien County Road Department, said that the Red Arrow corridor has been under construction since 2015.

In 2021, Union Pier was completed before moving onto the Harbert and Sawyer area.

Another project on Red Arrow may overlap with the Lakeside one.

"We hope to be done in south county, Red Arrow and almost Chikaming by the end of next year, so we'll be down on U.S. 12 to Community Hall south of Union Pier - we'll be starting there, that'll be the first project out the door," he said.

He added that there'll be a lot of guardrail involved with that project with the bridges over the Amtrak tracks and Galien River, which will involve a lot of detail but will not affect road traffic. At the same time, they'll come up to Berrien Street in Union Pier and start north, until they come all the way up to Lakeshore Road.

"By the end of next year, we'll connect Sawyer to New Buffalo - and we'll be done," Stacks said.

He said they're working on another funding source confirming a grant that will get a path in from Berrien Street to Lakeshore.

Moving into Lakeside, East and Pier roads, there'll be road closures for a couple of weeks due to placing two 6-foot culverts - one near Lakeside and the other near Brown Street - 20 feet deep into the ground.

The project scope is from Red

Arrow up to Lakeshore Road, with the intersection of Lakeshore being a small part of the project due to drainage issues, and then East Road from Red Arrow to Lakeside and then Pier Road to the dead end from Lakeside to Lakeshore.

Stacks said the loose gravel shoulder on the south side at the end of Pier Street, where the stairs go down to Lake Michigan at the beach access, will be asphalt, which will make the area "identifiable" with regards to parallel parking spots.

Streetscaping will also be focused on the downtown area, which is moving north from Pier Street to East Road. Everything outside of that area will be focused on road construction, repair and drainage.

Moving toward East Road, Stacks said the design is "pivoted around parking and keeping as much there as possible," adding that they'll try to work around two maple trees on the corner there despite the sidewalk going up and the road going down there.

A concrete curb will go in that area to define the roadway as well as help with drainage, Stacks said. There'll be no designated parking areas on Pier Street.

Stacks said that construction will involve tearing everything up, which will involve a pulverizer grinding the road and mixing it and packing it down so there's just gravel. Digging will be done for the pipe before the road is graded. Access will be maintained at all times, although the road may be closed to traffic. The concrete curb will need 24 hours to cure and sidewalks will be done in segments, letting it cure for a few days, to maintain access.

Stacks said the schedule will be known once there's a contractor for the project.

Guests at the meeting were invited to view a conceptual design for the streetscape, which will be done by Wightman and Company, in downtown Lakeside and give their opinion on cards.

The Lakeside reconstruction process will be locally financed, with funds coming from the county and township.

Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said that once the details of the design are complete, they can look for funding sources.

He added that the road department won't pay for some elements of the project, as it falls on the township.

Funds for the road work will come out of the township's road millage, which has been accounted for; however, incidentals, such as lighting, benches and sidewalk, have to be financed elsewhere.

"I wanted everyone to be aware that, as we're going through this process, if the numbers come in so astronomically high, we may have to put in the preliminary things that we need in order to do the streetscape when this project is done next year from a road standpoint but have to do the aesthetics later on," he said, adding he'll keep seeking funding sources.

@ the Wynn, I don't mind hanging out with the nou·veau riche, especially when Lil Baby shows up and stays in attendance.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Grand Beach Village Council approves village clerk/treasurer, deputy clerk hires

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved hiring a village clerk/treasurer and deputy clerk at their Wednesday, Nov. 15, meeting.

Councilmembers approved appointing Kim Wolnick, who's currently the deputy clerk, as clerk/treasurer effective Dec. 1, when longtime clerk/treasurer Mary Robertson retires.

Councilmembers approved hiring Kelly Boersma as deputy clerk effective Dec. 1, with council president Harry Waldersaying that the previous candidate approved at the last meeting decided to decline the position.

Councilmembers approved a draft tree ordinance, subject to the review of village attorney Sara Senica and changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction under Section 8 so it reads that "any person, firm or corporation violating any provision, of the ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a municipal civil infraction," as well as other suggestions made by resident Meg Piper and councilmember James Bracewell.

Piper said a section should be added to provide for methods of notification of homeowners before doing anything related to the ordinance, either on private property or the right of way as adjoining their private property. Notice is referred to under section 7b regarding nuisance trees on private property; however, a method of providing it isn't detailed and not listed as a requirement anywhere else in the ordinance. The ordinance also establishes the right of the Parks and Recreation Committee to go onto private property to control or exterminate insects, pests and plant disease and deal with problem trees and makes it illegal to interfere with or delay someone engaged with those processes and will be charged with misdemeanor and fine up to $500 for each interference; however, there's no requirement the homeowner be notified that the work the Parks and Recreation Committee believes the work needs to be done.

Piper said that sections 4d and 4e should be amended to "reflect the fact that they are only referring to the planting of new trees within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or 15 feet of any overhead line."

Bracewell when that the "methodology of saying, 'No, you're going to pay, the village is not" with regards to when a tree on private property or the village easement needs to come down should be addressed.

Councilmembers approved the Honeybee Garden Parklet project agreement upon review by village attorney Sara Senica. Walder said that the only change was in the fourth item, "Unfinished Work," which will be completed in 2024, and that the title work needs to be completed.

The park, which would be donated by the Keely Family Foundation, would be located at 47027 Lakeview Avenue.

Councilmember Ed Brandes asked that, since the agreement doesn't allow for structures on the property, if this would prevent them from doing a handicap access ramp leading down to the pump house beach.

A representative from the Keely family said that the intent is to not have anything in front of the park; however, they're happy to look at something that's presented to them.

It was suggested that the council look into installing a lift instead, which would be cheaper than 360 feet of ramp.

Councilmembers approved making a bulk purchase of street address signs in black and white to be paid for out of a one-time addition to homeowners' water bills, with a special fee assessed for new homeowners and none for those who already have signage. The fee will be $50 for existing homes and $100 for new ones.

Police chief Ryan Layman presented on double-sided, reflective signs that can go in the ground and come in the colors blue, black, green or red.

Layman, who said he'd prefer that he and assistant police chief Jamie Flick install the signs, said that the company sends out 16 of them at a time.

Ideally, he'd like the signs to be in the right of way; however, he said that several factors, such as sprinkler systems and gas and water lines as well as where the house is located, will be taken into consideration.

Regarding the Verizon antennas on the water tower, council members approved Verizon's proposal extending the village's current agreement at a reduced amount in a 4-1 vote, with Bracewell voting "nay.".

Walder said that Verizon dropped the rate down to $1300 a month when they formalized it and the escalator from 15% every five years to 10%.

In a 4-1 vote, with councilmember James Bracewell voting "nay," councilmembers approved applying for an EGLE permit for ADA accessible parking on the upper level of village hall. Walder said the permit is required because of the involvement of a critical dune and shouldn't cost less than $500.

... we gangsters. *— Lil Baby*

Councilmembers accepted a donation in the amount of $3,900 from the North Grand Beach Homeowners Association to be used for a viewing platform/stairs at the Robin Lane beach access.

Councilmembers approved the donation of a new merry go round for the Royal Avenue park, as well as replacing the teeter totter at a cost not to exceed $2,500.

A one-time salary adjustment for Robertson in the amount of $13,250 was approved.

Councilmembers approved year end salary adjustments for employees as well as a pay increase for building/zoning administrator Chad Butler for $1,500.

Council members agreed not to object to an EGLE project, which involves a revetment project at 51013 Lake Park Drive. The project, which was originally approved in March, no longer requires using the Lake Avenue beach access.

Council members approved the appointment of Mike Elliot (chair), Nancy Buckley, Patrick Coyne, Colleen Healy, Molly Newell, Martyn Smith and Molly Galbo to a village hall study committee.

Ed Trainor, John Jennings, Bob Barnes, Walder and Kevin Keeley were appointed to a beach task force, which Walder said will investigate what can be done, if anything, regarding protecting the beaches and at what cost.

Councilmembers approved appointing Gary Kagan and reappointing Judith Blackburn to the Parks and Recreation Committee each for two year terms ending Nov. 30, 2025.

Councilmembers approved appointing Gary Dicen to a three-year term to the Parks and Recreation Committee ending Nov. 30, 2026.

The 2024 meeting schedule was approved, with meetings beginning at 5 p.m. October through March and 7 p.m. April through September.

City planners approve site plan for Post boy Restaurant

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the City of New Buffalo Planning Commission approved a site plan for a restaurant at 207 N. Whittaker Street in New Buffalo at their rescheduled Tuesday, Nov. 14, meeting.

Owner Benjamin Holland said that he was returning to the Planning Commission because he needed to apply for his permits and realized the site plan had expired.

Originally called birdies but now Post Boy Restaurant after the famed Captain Whittaker's schooner that crashed on the beach in New Buffalo, the restaurant's seating has remained the same and the project has the same number of parking spaces. The event space has been brought down to ground level, and a merchandise space will be a "built in experience" on the patio.

"We also took the second floor above the kitchen area, which used to be office space, and brought everything down to a single story," Holland said.

There's now one main bar that's half inside the building and half outside the building.

Holland said he'll be bringing in a partner/creative director, James Galbraith, chef at Houndstooth and Anemel, A Tortaria 'in Benton Harbor, who Holland said he believes to be the "best chef in the Midwest." He added that the restaurant will be "more volume focused" during the busy summer months and that food will be more new American style in the offseason.

Originally called birdies but now Post Boy Restaurant after the famed Captain Whittaker's schooner that crashed on the beach in New Buffalo, the restaurant's seating has remained the same and the project has the same number of parking spaces. The event space has been brought down to ground level, and a merchandise space will be a "built in experience" on the patio.

The patio is also still roughly the same.

The inside will be entirely new, with windows all around. Holland said he plans on popping in some windows in the back for a sunset view, adding that he's been advised to have ones that have "really good sound" due to being located by the Amtrak tracks. There'll also be a custom made bar and an open concept kitchen.

A sound team will be brought in to handle the building's acoustic quality, with Holland adding that the slats have a little acoustic ability to them and there'll be acoustic beams as well as acoustic paneling through the ceiling.

Inside, there will be three sections: a walled-in area for a quiet dining experience, a section for a louder experience and a front area with windows all around the seating.

With regards to takeout, he said that people will go right in front of the addition that'd be off the kitchen. There'd also be an area to pass through in the parking lot if someone wants to park and access it from there. Customers may also be able to come in from the loading space in front and grab and go that way.

"We're excited about getting open and think it's going to be a great asset to the town," he said, adding that they also plan to put a fire pit or two outside.

Holland added he's now purchased the property next door and they're held in the same name, Harbor Country Property Group.

Holland said he plans to break ground before Dec. 1 and get the foundation in before winter, so that he hopefully can open next summer.

Planners also approved a site plan for a pool at Lake Michigan Yacht Club, which is located at 200 Lake Drive.

The plan involves putting in a pool and outdoor bar at the private club, which has 48 owners. The property is only open from May 15 through Oct. 15.

With regards to updating the zoning ordinance, planners agreed to compare the draft updated zoning maps with the current ones.

No serious injuries in Amtrak train derailment

BY STAN MADDUX / PHOTOS BY EVAN BURIAN, K. FATOUROS AND STAN MADDUX

A New Buffalo teenager heading home from college for the weekend was among the 200 passengers on a derailed Amtrak train involved in a fiery crash.

Evan Messinger, 18, of New Buffalo said he didn't know what was happening at first.

"We felt the train shake as if you were in an airplane with turbulence and then all of a sudden, we were tipped sideways almost," he said.

According to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, there were no serious injuries in the Thursday night, Nov. 16, derailment along U.S. 12 in New Buffalo Township.

All of the train cars remained upright on the tracks.

Police said a vehicle stuck on the railroad tracks was in the process of being removed by a tow truck at the Lakeside Road crossing between New Buffalo and Three Oaks.

A westbound Amtrak train that was unable to stop hit the vehicle and tow truck on the tracks.

Police said nobody was in either vehicle at the time of impact.

The engineer and 10 passengers were treated by local ambulance services for minor injuries.

No light was shed by local authorities on why the car was stuck on the tracks.

Messinger said he was traveling home from Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, where he's a freshman.

He wanted to spend the weekend with his family before heading back to the campus for classes on Monday and returning home again for Thanksgiving.

At about the time his passenger car began shaking, Messinger said the train started coming to a stop fast enough to almost throw him out of his seat.

He also saw what he described as a "big ball of fire" and felt his window heating up on the inside from the flames.

"That's when I knew something was wrong," he said.

Right away, Messinger said he called his father and, like the other passengers in his train car, was scared, if not panicking.

"There was a bunch of random emotions going on," he said.

He and the rest of the passengers eventually stepped out of the train cars and waited in a field beside the tracks.

Messinger said he was too far away to tell what was burning yet close enough to see the flames and what seemed like a few dozen firefighters trying to put them out.

"It was definitely a traumatic experience. I'm so glad to be alive right now - I'm really glad to be here," he said.

All of the passengers on the train were safely evacuated and taken on school buses to New Buffalo High School for temporary shelter.

Police said many passengers were picked up by family members and friends at the school, while the remainder of the people were taken on buses to the Amtrak station in Chicago just before 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, police said.

Evan Burian, 18, also of New Buffalo, said he and Messinger were texting each other during his trip when he informed him about the derailment just after it occurred.

Burian went to the scene and took Messinger home.

"Everyone was freaking out and trying to get out of the train as quick as possible," he said.

Zack Forker, a 2022 New Buffalo High School graduate, said he also went to the scene after learning about the derailment.

He also went to the school, where he saw passengers along with their family members hugging each other.

"It was hectic. It was scary," he said.

Several train cars were removed from the tracks and placed in the field while crews began the process of making the repairs.

Lakeside Road was closed to through traffic from Kruger Road to U.S. 12 during the repairs, according to the Berrien County Road Department, but reopened Tuesday, Nov. 21.

On Monday, Nov. 20, the Berrien County Public Safety Communication Center/911 Dispatch said that, while the incident remains under investigation, it appears a technology failure and misidentification of a crossing contributed to the accident that led to the derailment of a westbound Amtrak train at approximately 10 p.m.

Of the approximate 200 passengers on the train, six individuals were transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries by ambulance services who responded to the incident.

The technology issue has been resolved, and Berrien County is reviewing its 911 emergency dispatch protocols to mitigate any future occurrence.

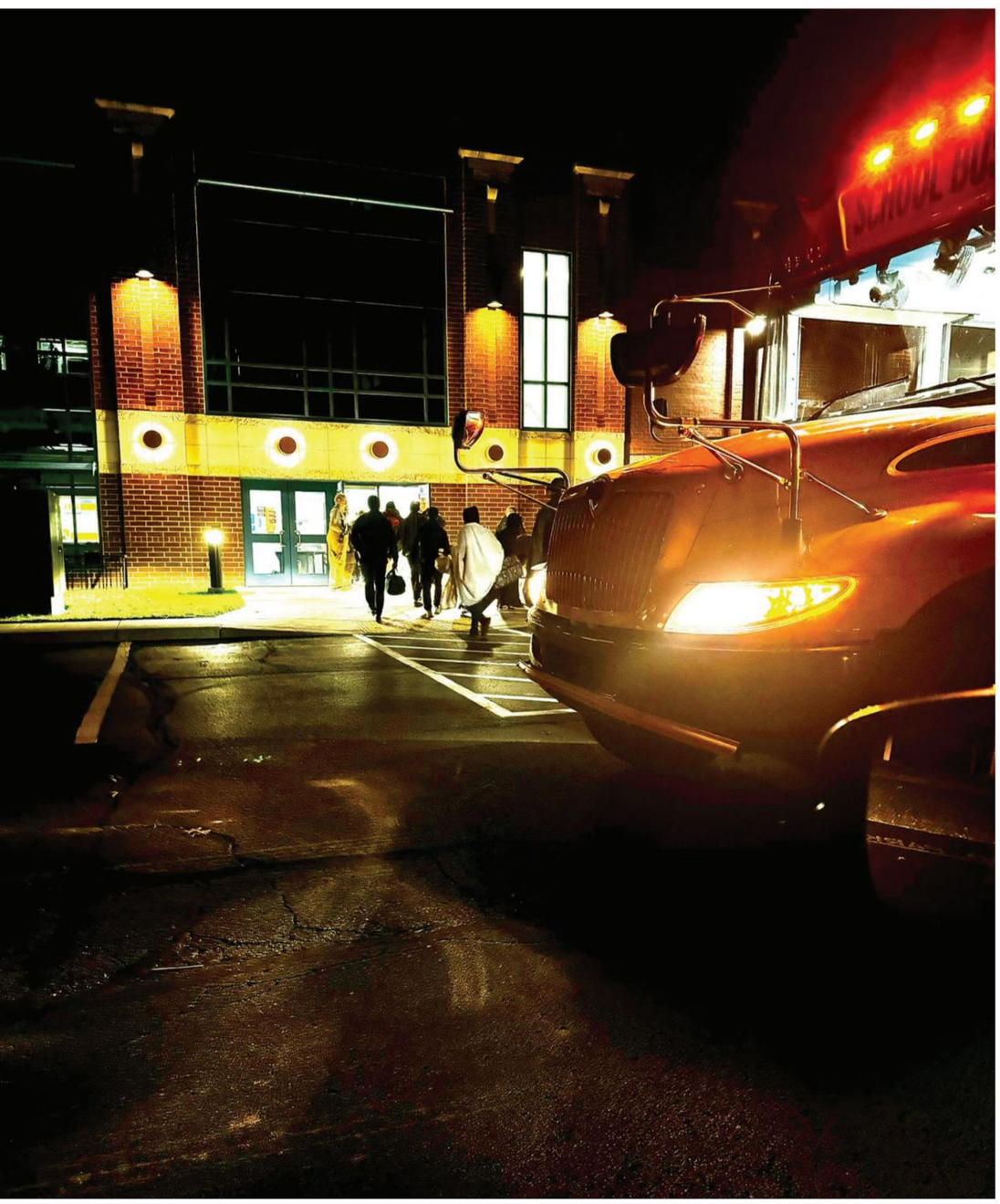
"Our preliminary review of this incident shows we were experiencing technical issues with our computer aided dispatch system on the evening of Nov. 16 that left us unable to enter intersection cross streets, which are critical to our ability to pinpoint locations."

"At approximately 9:21 p.m., we received two 911 calls alerting us to a stranded vehicle on train tracks in New Buffalo Township. We identified the location using a nearby business, as we were unable to enter an intersection using cross streets because of the software issue. We cross-referenced that location with our list of railroad crossings, which resulted in the identification of an incorrect train crossing. We then immediately notified CSX, the primary operating railroad of the tracks at that crossing location.

"We appreciate the swift response from 20 agencies and organizations to Thursday's derailment," said Caitlin Sampsell, Berrien County 911 director. "We remain incredibly grateful for the support of all those who helped ensure the safe evacuation of the passengers onboard and their reunification with loved ones."

The initial steps taken to modify dispatch protocols include changes to: protocols related to computer and software updates, communication protocols with railroads and the railroad crossing resource guide, ensuring it is in a more user-friendly format for dispatchers.

The incident remains under investigation and no further information is available at this time.



New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority DDA extended to 2028

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Changes are coming to the Downtown Development Authority as the New Buffalo City Council approved an amendment to the Downtown Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan at their Monday, Nov. 20, meeting.

When the plans were initially approved, they had terms ending Dec. 31, 2023. In their October 2023 meeting, the DDA passed a resolution to extend the term until Dec. 31, 2028. The DDA held a public hearing on the resolution Nov. 20 before the council approved the amendment at their meeting that evening. Mayor John Humphrey explained the extension will help ensure the DDA is able to sustain itself in the long term.

New Buffalo Library Board President Sandy Sporleder told the council the library does not wish to participate in the DDA tax capture. Later in the meeting, Humphrey explained state legislation precluded libraries and other non-profits from the capture. City treasurer Kathie Butler, who also serves on the library board, said the county had withheld funds as if the library were included in the DDA.

The council went into closed session to discuss legal advice pertaining to agenda items, reconvening the public meeting after close to a half hour.

After discussion, the council awarded the solid waste, recycling and yard waste contract to Lakeshore Recycling. City Manager Darwin Watson had recommended the council award Lakeshore the yard waste contract for three years, and award Borden Waste-Away Service the solid waste contract for three years. However, councilmembers were reluctant to split the services.

Humphrey said the city had removed approximately 420 addresses from residential trash service, primarily condominiums. He explained the change was part of an effort to streamline collection, and switching multiple units to one shared receptacle rather than individual bins for each unit could reduce costs.

The council agreed to determine during their December meeting how waste removal will be handled at non-residential addresses.

Councilmember Brian Flanagan abstained from the vote.

In order to provide adequate fire protection, the City of New Buffalo and New Buffalo Township have a supplemental aid agreement. Due to low numbers, the city is unable to offer mutual aid to the township. At the November meeting, the council renewed the supplemental agreement for $60,000 annually. Councilmember Roger Lijewski commented he has seen the firefighters work and appreciates what they do. Humphrey expressed appreciation to the township for keeping the agreement costs the same as the previous term.

After a trial period, Civic Savvy has received a contract agreement to provide public relations services to the city for $875 per month. Watson said as part of the trial, the firm had built relationships and increased public understanding of the city.

The city uses programs from BS&A software to manage budgeting, licensing and human resources. Currently, the modules are stored in physical servers, but the servers are being phased out. The council approved a new contract that will include cloud migration and storage. The new contract is for $51,135 for migration, and a subsequent $15,740 annual fee.

The council also approved contracts for various projects around the marina and parks.

King Company will repair the sloping on the south end of the Whittaker Street Bridge. Watson said a bridge inspection had identified four issues. The city had repaired three itself, but needed to contract out the final one.

E.I. Construction will paint the interior of the municipal marina building. Watson reported that, other than repairs after a fire in 2022, the building was last painted in 2019. The total cost is $9200. When Humphrey asked about the total square footage of the work, Watson said he did not have the numbers immediately available but could find them.

J. Ranck Electric will perform utility upgrades to the municipal marina. Ranck was the only company to bid on the project. Watson reported the city considered reopening the bid due to the high estimate of $567,452 but ultimately decided it would be best to proceed with the project.

New Buffalo received a grant from the State of Michigan Waterways Grant in the amount of $189,481.19, leaving the city with a balance of $377,970.81 to pay from the parks budget.

Humphrey said the utility upgrades will help prepare the marina for the seawall improvement project.

Birds nesting in the ceiling have left the Oselka Park pavilion unusable. Several solutions have been considered to solve the problem. The council approved a contract with R. Yoder Construction to install soffit on the underside of the roof to eliminate nesting surfaces.

Councilmember Vance Price, who is also a teacher and coach at New Buffalo Area Schools, said the pavilion is often unusable during sporting event on the adjacent fields due to the bird waste on benches and tables. Humphrey, who cast the only dissenting vote citing the $149,247 price tag, said he would have liked to consider alternatives such as installing a flat roof, though he noted that would impact the appearance of the pavilion.

The council approved a site plan for the Lake Michigan Yacht Club to install a pool and bathhouse. While the club's address is 300 Lake St., Watson said the site plan lists 200 Lake to match county records. Humphrey noted the pool drain cannot empty into the city sewer system. He explained high levels of water entering the system increase city costs and dimmish the effectiveness of wastewater treatment.

Humphrey further said the city has worked hard to get the sewer flow under control and would address any unapproved pool connections it became aware of.

Jerry Looney, the club's rear commodore, told the council that the high-water table was leading many to use sump pumps, which he said were likely contributing to the flow. Looney also said the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) had determined the club's planned pool was outside of the department's jurisdiction.

The council also approved a site plan for a restaurant at 207 N. Whittaker and 16 E. Merchant streets. A previous site plan expired, necessitating a new approval. The new plan lists the restaurant as Postboy, rather than Birdie's.

Post Boy was the name of the schooner Wessel Whittaker ran aground, leading him to establish New Buffalo.

City employees will receive a year-end salary adjustment. All full-time and part-time employees will receive a one-time payment.

The council held the second reading of an addition to Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances, relating to vacant and nuisance houses in the city.

In addition, the council held a first reading of an ordinance to repeal Article 13 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances, and to amend Chapter 14. This will split the Parks and Harbor Commission into two ad hoc commissions.

Dan Petersen of the Pokagon Fund informed the council the fund is partnering with Michigan State University extension to host a session on attainable housing.

Prior to the council adjourning, Price expressed gratitude to Tricia Bowden for organizing the annual Halloween parade.

Humphrey expressed his gratitude that Lijewski was with the council after the tow truck he was operating was struck by a westbound Amtrak train on Nov. 16. A technical issue led Berrien County dispatch to misidentify the crossing as a CSX line, leading to the wrong train line receiving notice.

TOWN SQUARE

LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

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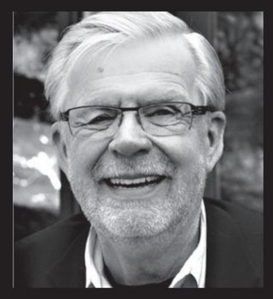
SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

I love Sundays in the fall and winter.

My gal knows how much I enjoy watching football, as do most of my friends and family, so everyone basically leaves me alone. With all of the advances in technology, the people I talk to during Bears games are all diehard fans, like myself.

Sometimes I ignore the chatter, but Sunday when the Bears went to Detroit to take on the Lions, I was heavily involved in the conversation. The game started and the Bears looked like a different team. This year, for the first time in a long time, the Lions are really good. Also this year, as usual, the Bears have been terrible.

The possibility of the Lions slaughtering the Bears was very real, yet the Bears began the game by marching down the field and scoring. Justin Fields looked like a star. Then the defense stepped up and started pressuring the Lions quarterback which led to turnovers. For three and a half quarters, the Bears were clearly the better team.

Because Harbor Country is in Michigan, I imagine that some of you are long suffering Lions fans. Also, I know that Chicagoan's, many of whom are long suffering Bears fans, spend a lot of time in Harbor Country. Looking at the game with a little perspective, both of our teams came out on top.

The Lions came up with an epic comeback and are currently 8-2, in first place in the NFC North, two full games ahead of their nearest competitor, the Minnesota Vikings. This victory could help propel them to even greater heights.

On the other hand, the Bears lost another game. Their record is now 3-7 and if the regular season ended today, they would have the first and either the third, fourth, or fifth pick in the draft. Adding those two top pics and a couple of free agents to the team that looked really good today could make the Bears a playoff team as early as next season. Apparently, my Sundays will remain football Sundays for quite a while.

The majority of the texts and calls I received today expressed confidence in Bears quarterback Justin Fields. The offensive line and receivers also received praise.

Offensively, people were happy with the everything except the coaching. The game plan was working, the game was practically won, and the coaching became conservative, allowing the Lions to catch and pass the Bears.

Defensively, much of the same. The line put pressure on the quarterback and the linebackers and defensive backfield responded by creating turnovers. However, when the game was on the line, the coaches went to the prevent defense which as we all know, prevents you from winning. I sure hope the Bears coaches are learning. If not, maybe they should be leaving.

Sean Higgins said, "Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures don't matter. Don't sweat on what was, fight for what could be."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I always try to get the best result out of it,
I'm not there to just sit second or sit third.
I'm a winner, and I want to win every single race,
and I will always go for it.
— Max Verstappen

Former Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel's home spray painted with antisemitic message

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The spraypainting of the word "Nazis" on the fence located on the vacation home of Rahm Emanuel, U.S. ambassador to Japan, former mayor of Chicago and former White House chief of staff, in Union Pier in New Buffalo Township is under investigation.

At the township's Monday, Nov. 20, meeting, Lieutenant Ryan Sullivan said that the Berrien County Sheriff's Office took a complaint at 9:55 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, that a person or persons unknown had spray painted the word on the fence.

On Monday, Sullivan said that there were no leads yet and that he's been in contact with the local FBI office, as well as that the Gordan Beach Homeowners Association was aware of the incident.

Sullivan said that, as of Monday, there was concern that the spray paint hadn't been removed immediately. After contacting the people who are overseeing the property, he learned that they are working on getting that done.

Since the location is immediately adjacent to the roadway, Sullivan said that someone may have painted the fence without leaving the roadway and added that they haven't seen any other "associated issues with the property itself."

He added that they haven't seen anything similar in the township and isn't aware of anything in Berrien County.

"It's kind of an interesting time in our nation right now as far as uprising, anti semitic type of things and we take it very seriously," he said, adding that Emanuel, in addition to serving in the U.S. government, is also a notable member of the Jewish community

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that she "sincerely" hopes that they find whoever did it.

"That's just unacceptable - it's hard to believe in the township there's someone who would spread that sort of hate," she said.

Sullivan asked that anyone who the sheriff's office hasn't gotten a hold of yet with regards to the incident should reach out to them.

"It's obviously something that we would actively look to pursue any leads that we could come up with," he said.

Board members approved an agreement between the City of New Buffalo and New Buffalo Township to continue to provide supplemental fire services through Dec. 31, 2024.

A 2023 letter of engagement with Kruggle Lawton CPA for auditing services for $15,250.

A resolution which adopts the New Buffalo Township floodplain ordinance for floodplain management provisions as required by FEMA for the National Flood Insurance Program was adopted.

Two resolutions regarding salary stipends for supervisor, clerk and treasurer were adopted, which Heit said will ensure that they receive the same $200 Christmas stipend that the full-time employees do.

A contract with Todd Roempagel for consulting services regarding the design and future purchase of a new fire truck for $9,000 was approved. Heit said that Roempagel, who assisted with building the last truck, won't be paid until the end of the two-year process.

A letter of engagement for advisory services related to the U.S. 12 water and sewer Special Assessment District (SAD) for $19,000 was approved, with the township being reimbursed by the SAD.

An increase to $80,000 to the utility superintendent's annual salary effective Dec. 4, 2023, was approved.

A resolution that adopts the updated FOIA policy, related forms and policy guidelines was adopted.

Preliminary approval for special land use for John McLeod for an adult-use marihuana retail establishment at 19818 M-239 was approved, as well as one for Brandon Dabbish at 19325 U.S. 12.

A partial rezoning of parcel located at 19425 M-239 from AG to C-1 was approved, with Heit saying that the rezoning will put it in line with the C-1 zoning already along M-239.

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FEEDING AMERICA

Members of New Buffalo 2024 Royal Court begin their reigns

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Standing in her full-on firefighter gear, complete with a yellow helmet, in front of a packed audience at the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center during the "We All Scream for Ice Cream-" themed New Buffalo Scholarship Pageant Saturday, Nov. 18, Miss New Buffalo 2024 Audrey Proctor summed up her journey as a fire cadet.

"I stand before you as a New Buffalo Township fire cadet for two years - this has given me the opportunity to further know my future and I've upheld the responsibility of protecting lives and property and even cats," she said.

Later, Proctor shared that she'd heard that there was a firefighter who was once crowned royalty - but not at New Buffalo.

"A lot of people have influenced me to go out and I was really weighing out the option - it's something I've never done before," she said.

A 12th grader at New Buffalo High School, Proctor plans to attend South Bend Training Center to advance her skills and career in firefighting, which includes being EMT licensed.

Honors and awards include Progressive GPA, varsity soccer, sitting on the principal's council and The Pokagon Youth Advisory Council. She also volunteers with the township's fire department for several activities, including the annual 5K.

Lily Jaspering is crowned second runner-up to Little Miss New Buffalo

Miss and Mr. contestants perform during the opening number

Shawna Yech is crowned first runner-up to Miss Junior Teen New Buffalo

Kaitlyn Rainwater takes the stage during the formal presentation

Tim Taylor poses a question to Kate Welsh

The Miss and Mr. contestants perform a dance

Zoey O'Connell takes the stage

Contestants dance during the opening number

Thomas Cherrett takes the stage during the formal presentation

Amelia Brough is crowned first runner-up to Little Miss New Buffalo

Miss and Mr. Little contestants strike a pose

Angelina Bryck takes the stage during the formal presentation

Bailey Cherrett is introduced during the formal presentation

Miss New Buffalo Olivia Haskins performs the pinning ceremony for the Blossomtime Sorority Organization on Amelia Selir

Audrey Proctoer shares her journey as a fire cadet

Angelina Bryck, Ava Jackson and Sierra Sheeler perform an opening dance

First runner-up to Miss Teen Ava Jackson and Miss Teen New Buffalo Angelina Bryck are crowned

Joining Proctor on the court are first runner-up Kaitlyn Rainwater and second runner-up and Miss Congeniality Laura Wamser.

Rainwater is a 12th grader at New Buffalo High School who wants to become a pediatric dentist and one day open her own practice. She has been part of the National and Spanish honor societies, was yearbook editor and in student senate and has been involved in varsity volleyball, soccer and softball.

Wamser is a 12th grader at New Buffalo High School who plans to attend Indiana University South Bend to study business management. She has been involved in the National Honor Society and on the honor roll. She has been involved in volleyball since elementary school as well as the junior varsity varsity level softball since she was old enough to be in tee ball.

Mr. New Buffalo 2024 is Cameron Forker.

A 12th grader at New Buffalo High School, Forker aspires to have a career in the construction industry and attend Southwest Michigan College next fall. Someday, he would like to build a house for his family.

A football player on the Red Arrow Raiders, Forker has been awarded the DAR Good Citizens award and helps teachers "move heavy equipment and other things" whenever they need it.

Forker said it was his grandmother, Bambi Forker, who was Miss New Buffalo 1975, who inspired him to run for the title.

"She convinced me - and she convinced me to shave, too," he said.

He said he most looks forward to getting some home runs during the House of David softball game next spring.

Going onto the Blossomtime Pageant next spring with Forker will be Braiden Brooks.

Brooks plans to study cyber security at Purdue University as well as attend the police academy in Florida. He's earned a four-year varsity award and conference champion in the 300-meter hurdles, involved in cross country, track student congress and business professionals.

Crowned Mr. Congeniality was Nick Messiginer, who plans to study business at Southwest Michigan College. He's been an honorable mention for soccer, plays baseball and worked at a foster closet with his mother to sort out clothes for children in need.

Crowned Miss Teen New Buffalo 2024 was Angelina Bryk.

A 10-th grader at New Buffalo High School, 15-year-old Bryk loves ribs, watching "Soul Surfers," playing sports and singing.

Her favorite quote is "Don't let someone else's opinion of you become your reality."

A seasoned pageant pro, Bryk was crowned Little Miss New Buffalo 2017 and sat on the Miss Teen court last year.

"Definitely going to the pageants and meeting a bunch of new people" is what she looks forward to about her upcoming reign.

Crowned first runner-up and second runner-up were Ava Jackson and Sierra Sheeler, respectively.

A ninth grader, 15-year-old Jackson loves pasta, watching "13 Going on 30," ice skating and playing softball.

A 10th grader, 15-year-old Sheeler loves frozen yogurt bars, watching "The Summer I Turned Pretty" and being adventurous and trying new things.

Timothy Taylor talks to Little Mr. New Buffalo Thomas Cherrett

Laura Wamser shares her horseback riding journey

Audrey Proctor takes the stage

Kate Welsh is crowned Miss Junior Teen New Buffalo

The receiving line of queens, which includes Bambi Forker, Olivia Haskins and Amelia Selir, crowns Audrey Proctor

Lily Worley fields a question from Tim Taylor

Tim Taylor poses a question to Amelia Brough

Evan Messinger takes the stage during the formal presentation

Kaitlyn Rainwater shares her experience as color guard

Sierra Sheeler is crowned second runner up to Miss Teen New Buffalo

Nora Beck is crowned Little Miss New Buffalo

Second Runner Up to Miss New Buffalo Laura Wamser is crowned

Evan Messinger displays his golfing skills

Cameron Forker takes the stage during the formal presentation

The 2024 New Buffalo Royal Court

Contestants strike a pose after the opening number

The 2023 Royal Court stands onstage one last time

Miss New Buffalo Audrey Proctor is crowned Miss New Buffalo

Miss Junior Teen New Buffalo 2024 is Kate Welsh, with first runner-up Shawna Yech.

A sixth grader at New Buffalo Middle School, 12-year-old Welsh loves Sushi, the Barbie movie and playing soccer.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting other girls in the pageants and just getting to know the people in my pageant better," she said.

Yech is a 10-year-old fifth grader at New Buffalo Elementary School who loves spaghetti and meatballs, the movie "The Guardians," doing artwork and riding horses.

Crowned Little Miss New Buffalo was Nora Beck.

A fourth grader at New Buffalo Elementary School, 8-year-old Beck loves sushi and playing Monopoly.

"The crowning was really fun - and I just loved doing the dances with my friends," she said.

Crowned first runner-up and second runner-up were Amelia Brough and Lily Jaspering, respectively.

A second grader at New Buffalo Elementary School, 8-year-old Brough loves pasta and her hobby is gymnastics. Jaspering, 6, is a first grader at New Buffalo Elementary School who loves cake and Little Red Riding Hood and playing with mom.

Crowned Little Mr. New Buffalo 2024 was the sole contestant, Thomas Cherrett, a 9 year old who attends second grade at New Buffalo Elementary School. He loves French fries, watching "Star Wars" and playing baseball and soccer.

Other Miss Junior Teen contestants were Emily Beck, Bailey Cherrett and Emily Worley and other Little Miss contestants were Zoey O'Connell and Frankie Biggs.

The pageant was emceed by Timothy Taylor.

Little Miss/Mr. judges were Chloe Taylor, Connie Wade and Angelica Caolie. Miss/Mr. New Buffalo judges were Alex Proshwitz, Jessica LaFond and Jamie Quigno.

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This newspaper supports your right to know.

Coroner found allegedly impaired after crash

BY STAN MADDUX

The La Porte County Coroner is facing drunk driving allegations following a single vehicle crash over the weekend.

Lynn Swanson, 67, of Michigan City is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with two counts of operating while intoxicated.

According to court records, the most serious count is a Class A misdemeanor for having an alleged blood alcohol level above .15 percent.

The crash happened about 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, outside Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets mall in Michigan City at 601 Wabash Street.

According to Michigan City Police, Swanson was not injured in the accident.

However, the front end of her 2014 Dodge Journey was heavily damaged from striking the entrance sign to the mall on the city's northwest side.

There was also considerable damage to the undercarriage of her vehicle, which traveled through some landscaping before hitting the sign hard enough to knock it slightly off its concrete base, police said.

Police said Swanson had already called for a tow truck before responding officers arrived.

According to police, Swanson told investigators she was heading home from Three Sheets Bar and Grill at 227 W. Barker Avenue just west of Franklin Street.

Police said Swanson also responded she was trying to get to nearby Michigan Boulevard "the back way" but didn't know how the crash occurred.

When asked how much alcohol she had consumed, Swanson said "too much," according to police.

Police said Swanson judging by tire markings from her car was westbound on 4th Street but, instead of turning on Wabash Street, she went straight through the intersection toward the entrance to the mall.

After leaving the road, her car proceeded over some landscaping before striking the sign.

Police said the front passenger side tire on her car was flat and pushed back against the wheel well from the impact.

Swanson was booked into the La Porte County Jail with an alleged .164 percent blood alcohol level or slightly above two times the .08 percent legal limit.

She posted $605 cash bond the next morning.

"This was a terrible mistake and I am devastated," Swanson said when asked for a response to the allegations.

Swanson is nearing the end of the third year of her first four year term as coroner.

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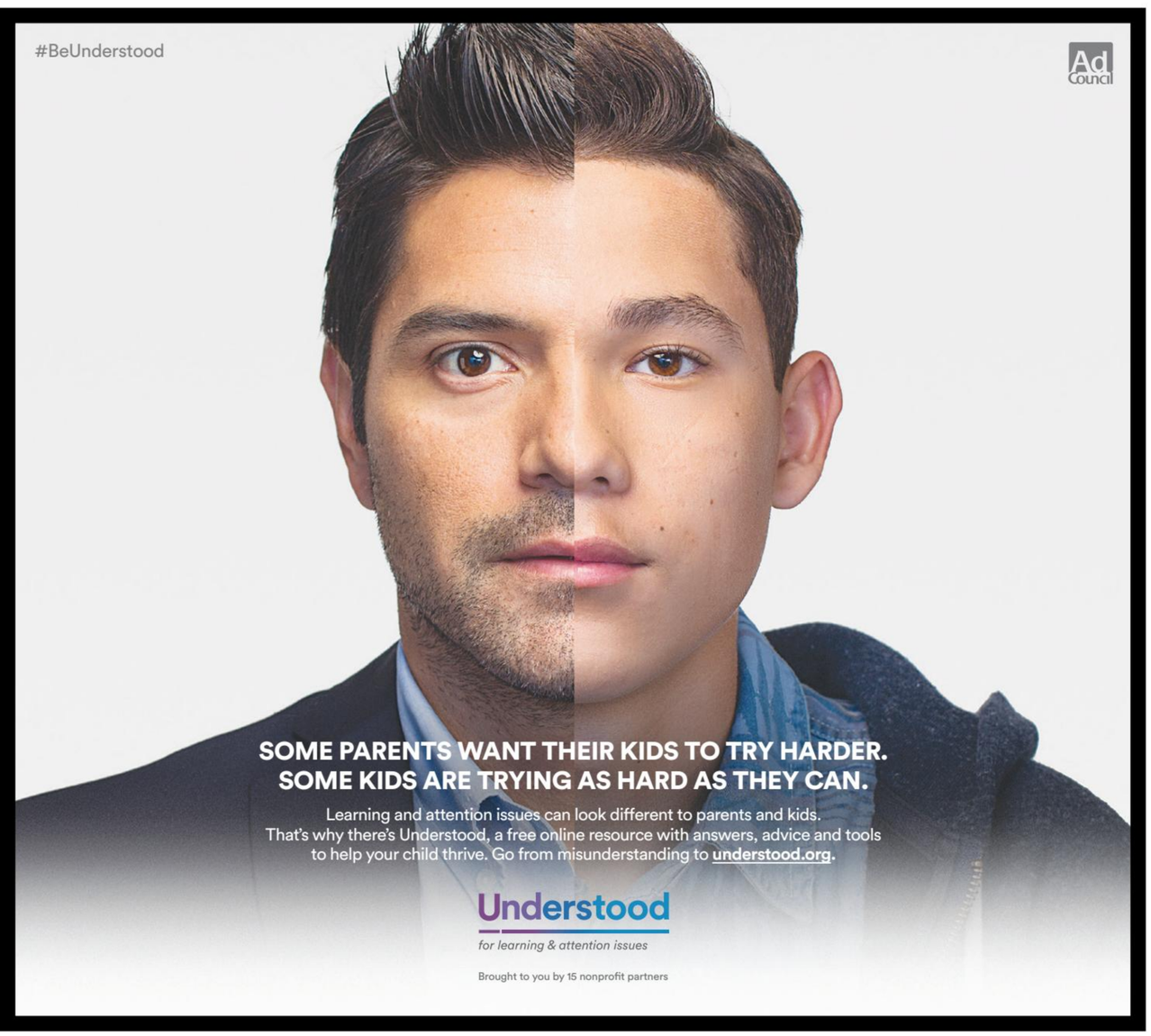
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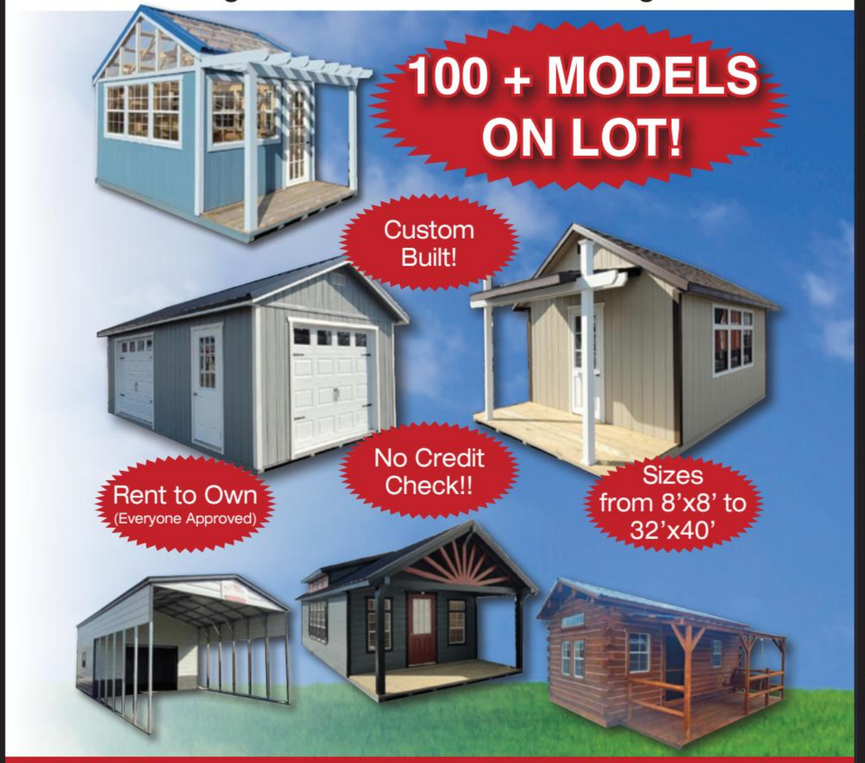

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NOVEMBER 23-29, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

It is important you let go of dark thoughts and stop any brooding behaviors. Once you do this your mood will improve and the air will lighten. Stop perpetuating bad situations with negative expectations. End conversations on a positive note and start encounters with more optimism.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This week you can move legal and financial situations forward by taking a matured approach in your communications. Know that your position is stronger than in the past and you will not let your emotions dominate your interactions and get the best of you. Take charge now.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

It will become clear to you how to help someone else and you may find yourself in the position to advocate on the behalf of a relative. Say what you know needs to be said. Do not allow yourself to monitored or controlled by convention. This situation has been going on long enough.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

You will find it easy to keep your urges and motives under control this week. You will have a sense of entering the inner world where you can sit with your emotions and go through a period of self-analysis. You will calmly confront someone now and you can be very persuasive when untroubled.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You will have much more impact with your words than you have in the past. You will be able to express your expectations because you are more in touch with your inner motives and drives. Utilize this opportunity to get more of what you want from perspective clients, employees and partners.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There will be no problem keeping busy and accomplishing many tasks at work as your energy levels continue to rise. If any unsettled issues with family, especially siblings, come up this week channel your work ethic into solving the conflict. Higher energy levels will help you achieve peace.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Domestic issues could equal money issues this week. Use caution when tackling household repairs and ask for help before you create a larger more expensive problem. The good news is you are blessed with the ability to find coupons, get discounts and good customer service. Be extra polite.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

It has been a long process of change for you and you are now on the up-swing of things. Recognition and rewards will start to flow in on a regular basis over the next two weeks. Be prepared to accept more power and prestige. Revamp your look and style with the best hand-me-downs ever!

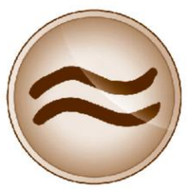
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You enjoy working all day and being there for family whenever needed but sometimes you need alone time. You are the hunter-er and it is normal to get in touch with what you want out of life by being alone, watching, and waiting for the right time to strike. Enjoy the warmth of your space.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

A more studious view of the world is being perceived by you and you are being shown the way or how to do things. Look and learn thru other relationships and listen to what is being said carefully. It may end up applying more to your current state then you now realize. Be more watchful.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Strong male energies are at work this week and you may be faced with some typically male issues. There will be a sense of being pushed or forced into understanding someone else's feelings. When faced with added responsibilities and stress levels start rise do you best to avoid escapism.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Your love-life is highly emphasized this week and other people, social groups, or friends may try to set you up or get involved in your current relationship. There are many passionate interests at work here and it will be an adventurous week. There are some major opportunities to learn about love.

I think you can improve on everything; you're never perfect.
— Max Verstappen

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1		9			2	
5	4	3				9		
						1		
	5							2
4					2	3	1	7
				7			8	
	9	7	3	8				
	3			5		8		

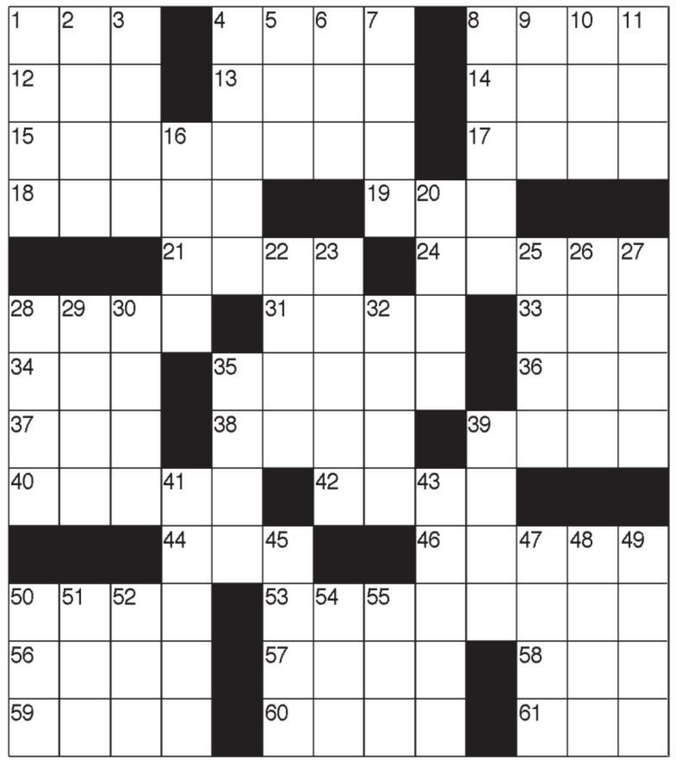
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

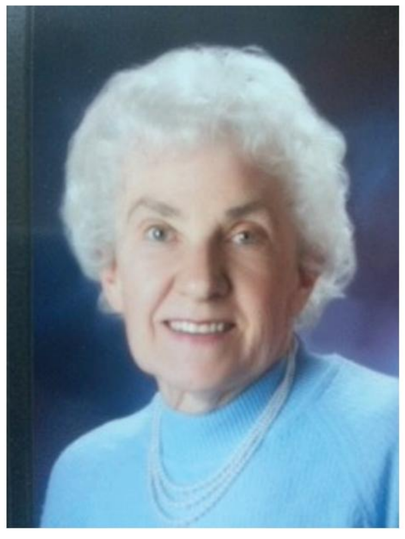
1 Cigarette: Brit. slang
4 Euphemistic oath
8 Shak. villain
12 Feminine (suf.)
13 Yahi tribe survivor
14 Freshwater worm
15 Bony
17 Load cargo
18 Head
19 Civil War commander
21 Cavity (suf.)
24 String of mules
28 Walk through
31 Singing voice
33 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
34 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)
35 Cement
36 Receipt (abbr.)
37 Rom. bronze
38 Killer whale
39 Wife of Jacob
40 Side
42 Photographer's solution
44 At the age of (Lat.)
46 Door (Lat.)
50 Sea bird
53 Balm
56 Powdered pumice
57 Of the kind of (suf.)
58 Ohio college town
59 Wet
60 Sprint
61 Dude

DOWN

1 Exchequer
2 Egypt. cross
3 Earth personified
4 Sacred (pref.)
5 Superlative (suf.)
6 Oriental tea
7 Rub out
8 Body of water
9 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
10 Sheep disease
11 Pindar work
16 Parasitic insects
20 Moderate
22 Ivory (Lat.)
23 Fastening
25 Rhine tributary
26 Jackfruit
27 Pledge
28 Women's Aux. Air Force (abbr.)
29 Brother of Seth
30 Hindu servant
32 Visit
35 Jab
39 Loess
41 Nat'l Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (abbr.)
43 Tar
45 Batrachian
47 Fist
48 Erase
49 Nipa palm
50 Standard (abbr.)
51 "The Jungle Book" python
52 City on the Danube
54 Thus (Lat.)
55 Birthplace of Constantine



OBITUARIES



Dorothy Marie Alvarez

1928-2023

Dorothy Marie Alvarez, 95, of Stevensville, died peacefully Monday, November 13, 2023.

Her life began August 15, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois, the youngest of two daughters born to Herbert and Josephine Douglas. She married Ronald Albert Alvarez April 26,1948 in Crown Point, Indiana. After sixty-three years of marriage, he preceded her in death May 2, 2011.

Dorothea from the Greek means, “Gift from God”, in Northern Africa means, “Loving mother and friend” and in Hebrew means “the grace of the beloved God”. Her first name, Dorothy, describes her very well; a loving mother and friend who truly was a graceful gift of God. Since she was born on the Feast of the Assumption, her middle name, Marie, speaks of how in her daily actions she brought others to Jesus. Dorothy was a woman who didn’t just sit around talking about Jesus, but was a woman of action who lived Jesus.

Her secretarial and administrative skills were obvious as a mother who loved her children and husband, as well as her own volunteerism in parish and community. Dorothy, in her kindness and motherly love was an accomplished accordion player; a long-standing singer in the parish choir; an assistant den mother of cub scouts and a seamstress sitting at her sewing machine making new clothes for her sons. She enjoyed taking her sons, nieces and nephews to roller skate on Saturdays. Dorothy wrote over one hundred poems to thank and cheer people up for different occasions often as gifts. She took black and white portraits and oil paintings, turning them into beautiful colored pieces of art.

Dorothy was also an accomplished AKC boxer dog breeder and dog show handler who raised the puppies in her home. She was an early and lifelong member and secretary of the mid-West Boxer Club. She served as the Ways and Means Chairperson, for 25 years and for the 50th Anniversary of the club, she developed the official club logo which is still used today. She was extremely creative and handmade many crafts sold at the dog shows supporting the club. She wrote a monthly article for the club’s newsletter. Her boxer dog poems are classic.

She not only enjoyed boxer dogs, she also raised tropical fish, specifically the Betta. Suppling most of the Chicagoland pet stores and with her own mastery, she was able to develop several strains of pure green, blue and red bettas. Her work was cited in a scientific journal by a doctoral candidate in genealogy. Dorothy was the first woman president of the Southwest Aquarius Club in Chicago and had her tropical fish displayed in the Shedd Aquarium.

In everything Dorothy did, she remained humble and in service to others with great love. Dorothy insisted and wanted the following people thanked for their caregiving: from CrownPointe of Stevensville, Brandy, Alyssa, Linda, Renee, Alex, Destiny, Jazmine, Shaya, Scott, Denise, Eilene, Dinecha, Kyra, Jamaya, Sharonday, Devona, Janae, and Shiniero; and from Elara Caring Hospice, Garret, Jenny, Alexis, Brook, Debra, and Beth.

Dorothy will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her one son, Curtiss Alvarez of Three Oaks; daughter-in-law Sheri (wife to Stanton) Alvarez; grandson, Garth (Amy) Alvarez; great granddaughters, Cayla, Jori (Dominic); great-great granddaughter Marcie; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; one grandson, Brian Alvarez two sons, Stanton Alvarez, Michael Alvarez; and one sister, Anita.

Family and friends will gather Tuesday, November 21, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 28 Ash Street West, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Dorothy will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Three Oaks.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Dorothy be made to either: Elara Caring Hospice, 4664 Campus Drive Suite 101A-B, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008, or CrownPointe of Stevensville, 4232 Red Arrow Highway, Stevensville, Michigan 49127, or St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 28 Ash Street West, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online www.wagnercares.com.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, (EGLE) Water Resources Division (WRD) will hold an online public hearing on December 4, 2023.
The purpose of this hearing is to secure the views of interested persons concerning the following application for permit:

Application for 11-Lakeside Rd Development-Union Pier (submittal number HPN-KH6Z-T9091) under Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, by applicant, Curtis McDonald, McDonald Development LLC. The applicant proposes to construct a 19-lot residential development impacting a total of 0.218 acres of forested wetland.

How to attend the Online Meeting:
To attend the online public information meeting register at https://bit.ly/40DiSsw. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have internet access and would like to join by PHONE ONLY, please use the following phone number: 636-651-3142, and use conf code 374288. Pre-registration is not required to attend the meeting. Individuals interested in participating can click the link above at the start of the event (6:00 p.m.).

The application is available for review on EGLE's Website at: https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search. The public hearing record will remain open for ten days after the public hearing date. Any written comments to be submitted for the public hearing record must be received before the close of the record.

To submit comments, access The Public Notice search at: https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search. You do not need an account to add a comment to the Public Hearing comments. Use the search tool on the Public Notice Search to find the public hearing announcement. It is most easily searched using the submission number (HPN-KH6Z-T9091). Once you find the submission using the search engine at the above link, you can review related documents to the application and click the "Add Comment" tab to enter your comment. You will have the option to either type your comment or upload it as an attachment.

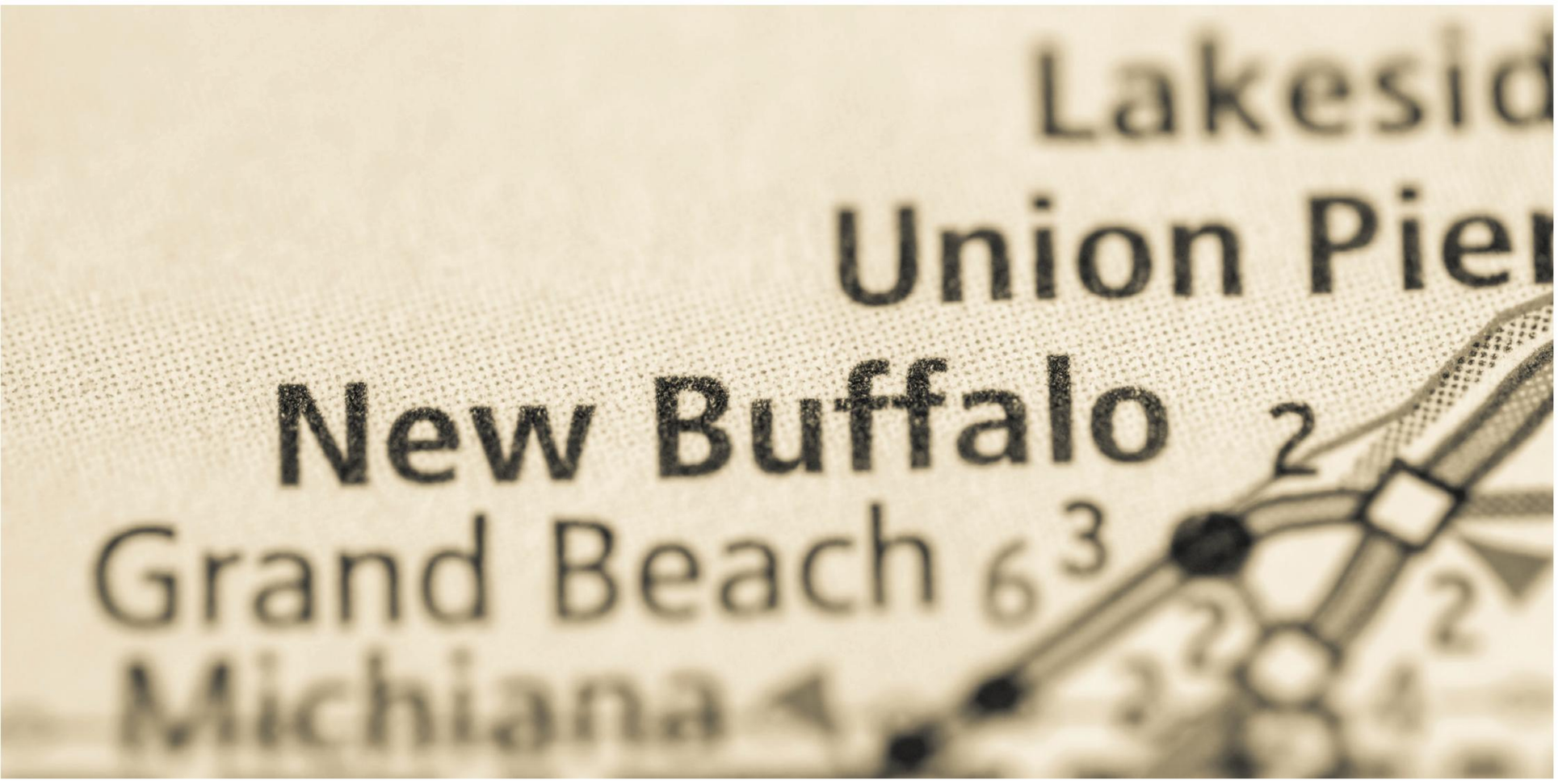
The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 30307 of Part 303 of the NREPA. The hearing will not be a legal proceeding, witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross examination. Public hearings are primarily informational and are held to encourage the expression of views and presentation of facts.
A copy of the decision on this application can be reviewed at https://mienviro.michigan.gov/nsite/map/results/summary/5397522931260677339, using Site Explorer, once a decision has been made.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Water Resources Division

Date: November 23, 2023

NOTE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should email Ryan Blazic at BlazicR@Michigan.gov one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.



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3	1	2	9	7	4	6	8	5
1	9	7	3	8	6	2	5	4
8	6	5	2	4	9	7	3	1
2	3	4	1	5	7	8	6	9

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I	N	A	■	I	S	H	I	■	N	A	I	D
S	K	E	L	E	T	A	L	■	L	A	D	E
C	H	A	I	R	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	O	E	L	■	A	T	A	J	O
W	A	D	E	■	B	A	S	S	■	A	A	A
A	B	A	■	P	U	T	T	Y	■	R	C	T
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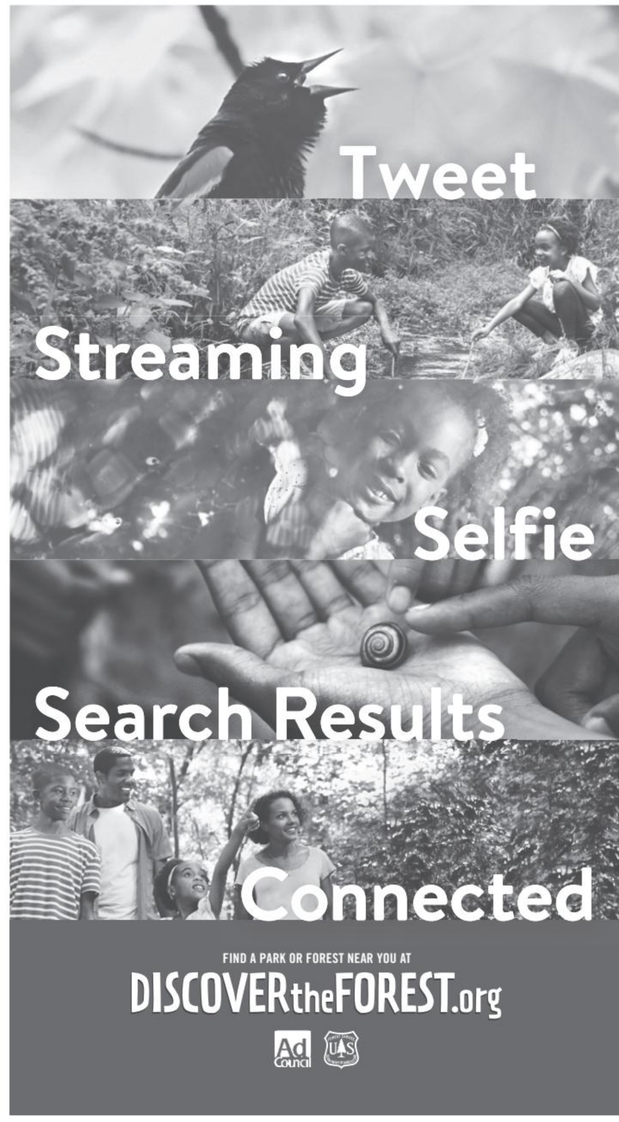

Members of the 2024 New Buffalo Royal Court, along with some 2023 alumni, performed their first deed as a court during "Feed a Family," when they shopped at Meijers for Thanksgiving dinner to help two unknown families at New Buffalo Area Schools. New business The Plug, which is located at 19015 U.S. 12 in New Buffalo, donated $200 to the endeavor.

HIKERS TO OFFER WINTER WARMTH TIPS AT LEONARD PRESERVE

Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher will offer tips on how to keep warm and safe on winter hikes during a Hikers' event at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.

The tips may be a refresher for some, but they're nevertheless important lessons for having fun in the outdoors during the winter months.

Venue for the hike is the Edward and Elizabeth Leonard Wildlife Preserve in Union Pier. A Chikaming Open Lands property, the preserve protects 108 acres of mature woodland, wetlands and agricultural land, some of it in production today. Portions of the preserve have not been farmed since the 1030s, if ever, and contain century-old trees.

Though membership in the Harbor Country Hikers is preferred, this hike is open to all. For more information about this hike, visit harborcountryhikers.com or the Hikers' Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

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The Acorn Tree House Presents
Sean Masterson's Timeless Magic
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PureSoul Presents: A Merry Motown Christmas
SAT 11/25 8 P.M. ET

JazzReach: Metta Quintet at The Acorn
11/28 & 11/29 7 P.M. ET

Charlie Parr
FRI 12/1 8 P.M. ET

The Ides of March Christmas Show featuring Jim Peterik
SAT 12/2 8 P.M. ET

Find more events at
acornlive.org

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